

**Teaneck Public Schools****Board of Education – Public Comment Guidelines (Distributed)**

As a Board, we must serve as role models for our scholars. The way we conduct ourselves tonight can impact their civic participation in the future.

In accordance with New Jersey statute (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12), opportunities are provided for members of the public to speak, but open dialogue between the Board and the public is not part of this meeting.

The Board President is responsible for maintaining a respectful environment during public participation so that public comments can be heard and considered by the Board. The President, therefore, may interrupt or terminate any individual's speaking privilege if the speaker's comments are excessively loud, profane, vulgar, inflammatory, threatening, abusive, or disparaging language or racial or ethnic slurs, disruptive, obscene, or otherwise in violation of applicable law. Further, an individual may be cautioned that a personally directed statement may be slanderous or defaming and that the individual may be liable for his/her statement. All meetings are recorded and, therefore, statements made during public participation cannot be altered or amended and shall be included in the minutes as presented.

No person shall engage in disorderly or boisterous conduct, including the utterance of loud, physically threatening or abusive/profane/threatening/disparaging language, or other acts which disturb, disrupt, or otherwise impede the orderly conduct of any meeting and the ability of the public to hear or participate. Any person who conducts himself in the aforementioned manner shall, at the discretion of the presiding officer or a majority of the body, be requested to refrain from such conduct or be barred from further participation. If a speaker who has violated these rules refuses to step down, the Board President may ask for the individual to be removed from the meeting room and may be subject to disorderly conduct charges.

Individuals addressing the Board should take into consideration the rules of common courtesy.



The public participation portion of the meeting cannot be used to make personal attacks against a Board member, District employee, or student that are unrelated to the administration of the District.

All speakers will be allotted no more than three minutes for comment. The subject matter shall be limited to topics of public concern. Individuals may not give their time to another individual.

Speakers must be present – virtually or in-person - when their names are called.

To enable as many members of the community to speak as possible, neither the Board nor the Superintendent will respond directly to any questions raised during the public input period. If you have a question or comment that requires a direct response, we encourage you to put your questions in an email to the Board secretary.